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Libya Hit Men May Be in U.S.

Reagan Seen as Target; Protection Stepped Up

From Times Wire Services

WASHINGTON—At least one assassination squad under orders from Libyan leader Col. Moammar Kadhafi to attack top American government officials is thought to have entered the United States during the last week, sources in the U.S. intelligence community and federal law enforcement agencies said Friday.

A high-ranking FBI official said bureau agents have been reassigned as part of an intensive investigation. In its initial stages, the search for the Libyan agents is centered in the Detroit area, where government sources say one group is thought to have crossed the border from Canada.

Vigilance Stepped Up

The same intelligence sources also said the Immigration and Naturalization Service has alerted its agents all along the Canadian border to possible infiltration. Ray Hagerty, Customs Service director for North Dakota and Minnesota, said his agents had "stepped up our watch."

Reports about increased concern over possible Libyan attacks on President Reagan and other high-

American officials began circulating in Washington a week ago after the Secret Service increased security surrounding the officials.

With lights flashing, four cars loaded with police and Secret Service agents accompanied Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. to the Pentagon Friday apparently part of the increased protection. Reporters said Haig, en route to one of his regular breakfast meetings with Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, was accompanied by the cars both in front of and behind his limousine.

ABC News reported Thursday evening that additional manpower and security devices have been ordered for Reagan and top Cabinet officials.

Missile-Jamming Devices

"Other officials report that special jamming equipment has been installed in presidential planes to ward off any SAM-7 missiles, which Libyan assassins are reported to carry," ABC said.

"In Washington, Secretary Haig and even Mrs. Reagan have been assigned additional agents for lead and backup cars, which enable motorcades to pass through traffic lights without stopping anywhere where they might be sniper targets."

"Believing he is inadequately protected," the network said, "one ambassador in Europe has offered to spend thousands of dollars of his own money to pay for a private British security force to guard him and for a German-made armored limousine."

Threats in August

Kadhafi began making threats against American officials last August after two F-14 fighters destroyed two Libyan planes in a confrontation over the Gulf of Sidra. Intelligence officials say that Kadhafi's agents were responsible for recent aborted assassination attempts against American diplomats in Paris and Rome.

Intelligence officials said the security buildup came after U.S. officials received reports from Israeli intelligence and other sources that Kadhafi had moved from a plan to attack U.S. diplomats stationed overseas to a plot aimed primarily at Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Haig and Weinberger.

"This would not be a lone-gunman style assault, the kind we're used to in this country," said a ranking intelligence expert with a background in terrorist tactics. "We're talking about an all-out attack by people who don't care if they get away."

No Comment on Threat

Administration spokesmen refused to discuss the Kadhafi threat. "It has been Administration policy since Day 1 not to discuss security matters," a spokesman for the White House said.

"We have to stick to 'no comment,'" a Se-

cret Service spokesman said.

Law enforcement officials said the agents could count on substantial assistance from Libyans already in this country. There is a large Libyan community in the District of Columbia and, during the past week, District police have increased their surveillance of suspected Kadhafi supporters, police sources said.

Sources within the intelligence community fear that an attack could come soon.

Holiday Attack Feared

"There is a very strong feeling that Kadhafi would like to strike before the end of the year, during the holidays," said a high CIA official directly involved with intelligence on international terrorism. "In his mind, assassinating a U.S. leader during the Thanksgiving-Christmas season would give it maximum impact."

Kadhafi's agents are thought responsible for the murder of 10 Kadhafi opponents, including one in Utah, since March, 1980. On July 17, 1981, a Libyan student, 32-year-old Nabil Abuzed Mansour, was found shot to death at Weber State College in Utah in what law enforcement officials say was an assassination ordered by Kadhafi.

Eugene Tafoya, a former Green Beret, is on trial this week in Fort Collins, Colo., on charges of trying to murder a Libyan student who opposes Kadhafi. The student, Faisal Zagallai, was shot twice in the head and lost an eye but survived.